132
134 The soil here is sandy and the rainfall insufficient
to support a forest. The vegetation consisted of
136 stunted piqui, mangabeira, fruta de lobo, lixeiro,
137 and other gnarled cerrado trees with the surface
sparcely covered with bunches of wiry grass and
other drought-resistant plants. During the whole
day we saw only four deer and two rheas, which
gives some idea of the poverty of the area. This
000 is public domain and apparently unwanted by
stockmen owing to its poor soil and lack of water.
By now we had left the telegraph line, which
crosses unbridged rivers, and were winding around
the headwaters of the streams. That night we
camped at Sucuruina where two palm-leaf-cov-
ered sheds, left by "tropeiros," provided some
shelter from the drizzling rain.

133 The following day the skies cleared and from the
137 tops of the folds in the plateau we obtained
magnificient views of the great plain. What few
● 312 trees could be seen were no more than 5 or 6 feet
high. A curious phenomena seen along the plateau
are the patches of forest of 5 to 10 acres in extent
which appear to grow straight out of the semi-
desert. Evidently ground water comes near the
surface in these spots, permitting the growth of a
genuine forest. Another interesting sight was the
birth of rivers. In the shallow valleys formed by
the folds, one could first see swampy ground, then
tall grass, then bushes, then short trees, and
finally the tall trees forming a "galeria" forest
which bordered a river winding its way northward
to form one of the headwaters of the Amazon
system.

At 4 o'clock we arrived at the Sacre River where
the trucks had to be ferried across on a raft.
As this operation took until dark we camped for
the night in some vacant buildings left by rubber
workers. Before leaving next morning we visited
the waterfall (Salto Bello) about 200 yards below
the ferry where the Sacre River tumbles over a
sheer drop of about 180 feet. Early in the after-
noon we reached the Papagaio River and after
ferrying the trucks across we were in Utiarity.
Both the Sacre and the Papagaio are deep clear
streams about 100 yards in width at the ferry
crossings. These headwater streams are evidently
fed by underground water, for their level does not
vary appreciably during the year.

000 Utiarity, which was to be our base camp for the
remainder of June and for July, is built on an

1 [on the Cerra dos Parecis.] [p. 83(8)]
- Analyst -